



**Montlake Community Center  
Project Advisory Team  
March 23, 2005  
Meeting Notes**

**PAT members present:** Kristen Tollefson; Robin Bentley; Ken Schubert; Ted Choi

**Staff Present:** Dan Johnson, Parks Project Manager; Karen Lynch, Parks Public Relations Specialist; Kerry Lasko, Parks Manager; Michael Yasutake; Carolyn Law, Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs

**Introductions**

Dan Johnson, Project Manager, introduced Kerry Lasko and Carolyn Law.

**Project Art Concepts**

Kristen Tollefson, Project Artist, showed a PowerPoint presentation of her entry art concepts, and distributed a handout to those present. Kristen said she has narrowed ideas down to three basic concepts, using input from the last public meeting:

1. clusters
2. portage
3. basin

Kristen explained that the first page of the handout describes overarching themes, and that it will be important to “draw people into the entry area somehow”. Discussions have occurred outside this meeting about re-using some existing materials onsite, i.e., pillars currently in the breezeway if they are removed during construction. Dan Johnson commented that he likes her thinking of “adaptive re-use” for recycling site materials as much as is possible.

Ken Schubert: not a fan of the basin concept and likes the other concepts, especially the clusters, better. He suggested using leaf shapes for the clusters. He is not that excited about shapes at ground level.

Michael Yasutake: also likes the idea of leaf clusters, if they are up off of the ground.

Robin Bentley: likes the portage shapes, but is leaning toward the clusters – they are fairly similar; can the two concepts be combined? She also prefers them to be above ground level.

Ted Choi: will kids understand what the shapes are (should we put signs on them?). Can they be made childproof/vandal proof? He asked if Kristen will be presenting her concepts to the Montlake Community Council or Montlake Community Club. She wanted to know what the Design Commission's role is in the art process. Carolyn Law answered that the Design Commission is tangentially involved and that the concept is already a part of the project when it is reviewed by them. Kristen will be happy to present ideas in other forums, although she has already met with community members and presented at the public meetings for this project. Ken Schubert is President of the Montlake Community Club and expressed that he wants club members to come to the public meetings hosted by Parks rather than having a separate presentation. Kristen stated that she can also provide visuals to put on the webpage once the concepts are more "meshed".

Dan Johnson commented that (City Light) may be providing photovoltaic panels for the project that could provide power for lights if Kristen incorporates lighting into the piece. Kristen said it's a possible option if she decides to use light in the artwork.

Kerry Lasko encouraged the group to look at art in/around community centers (he mentioned the metal art at Magnolia CC) – he feels they are very successful, that it announces the entry; he feels that is what is needed here too. He discouraged the water features option. He informed the group that any light used must be low level, due to the neighbors. He said we need to "stay completely away from the tennis court fence" due to maintenance issues. He likes the idea of shapes continuing around even to the side – "be bold" – "make it look large". He likes the concepts.

## **Design**

Dan did not bring designs to this meeting; he explained that Don Carlson, between now and April 5, has some steps to go through: Don will attend Parks' ProView next meeting to present the designs previously discussed with the PAT and obtain comments and further direction.

On March 24, David Goldberg will brief the Parks Board to have design reviewed (the meeting is open to the public) – Kerry added that the public is allowed to have brief comments at the beginning of the meeting, however, not during the briefing itself. The

briefing paper can also be added to the webpage. The project schematics are currently on the webpage. Dan reiterated that the design is essentially unchanged. He's working on some staff comments related to the design:

- the staff office size is under discussion
- child care room; activity room may be used for child care or "day camp"

Kerry also commented that he would like to see a real (covered) connection from Tudor building to main building, however, comment was made about PAT's earlier discussions and no decision was made to add this connector.

Dan will ask Don Carlson to explore how the "connector" will/could be done. Dan committed to bringing this information back to PAT.

Michael Yasutake said center staff is concerned about idea of losing office space and is worried about their future needs so that they won't be crowded together when, for example, they have added summer staff (15 staff as opposed to the current 5). Dan said they will take a look at this issue in the next stage of the design.

Ken said that the Montlake Advisory Committee has recently discussed the staff office space issue.

This modular building is not part of decisions that the PAT is being asked to make.

Kerry commented that there is a slight possibility of moving the modular to the east, but it's not decided at all at this point. It will be a decision made by the Parks Department.

Dan reminded that we have the rest of 2005 to decide this; construction starts in 2006; other decisions, operationally, have to be made in 2005, including decisions about closure. He also said Parks will be getting a revised cost estimate within the next two weeks, which will help show whether any money can be spent on the Tudor (for repairs, upgrades), but at this point we don't know.

### **Next Steps**

1. Group to meet again in about 2 months, at mid-design/development phase.
2. Updated information will continue to be added to webpage.
3. Kristin can give an update on art concepts at the next meeting.

**8:00 p.m. Meeting Adjourned**